



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite N-323, Sacramento, CA 95834

P (916) 574-8170 F (916) 574-8612 | www.dca.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Glenn Mason
(916) 574-8168

September 7, 2011

STOCKTON SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by California Smog Only Owner

STOCKTON – A Stockton Smog Check station owner and a technician, accused of illegal "clean piping," have had their licenses suspended pending a revocation hearing as a result of an investigation by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR).

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) has granted BAR's request for Interim Suspension Orders (ISO) to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and Smog Check Station license of Nabila Iqball the owner of California Smog Only, located at 443 S. Wilson Way in Stockton. The ALJ also suspended the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License of Hedayatullah Bayanzay.

BAR's investigation of California Smog Only revealed multiple instances of "clean piping," in which a technician or other employee uses a clean exhaust sample from a vehicle that is compliant with smog laws but enters the data for another vehicle that is not qualified for a certificate of compliance or is not on the premises.

"The bottom line is clean piping is against the law," said DCA Director Brian Stiger. "Dirty air is a problem for everyone and BAR will act quickly to take bad players out of business."

"The goal of California's Smog Check Program is to reduce air pollution by bringing vehicles into compliance with emissions standards," said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. "These acts constitute serious environmental crimes, in addition to numerous violations of the Health and Safety Code."

BAR sought the ISOs to shut down California Smog Only and prevent Bayanzay from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case. BAR is seeking to permanently revoke both licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to determine whether the licenses should be permanently revoked.

The case has also been submitted to the San Joaquin County District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

#

The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.